



# GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

## AT THE ROUND ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

Winter 2005

### NEWS FROM THE ROUND ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

#### New Genealogy & Local History Librarian

Elizabeth L. Johnston, the Round Rock Public Library System's Genealogy and Local History Librarian since 2002, resigned in December to be a full-time mom. We wish her and her family all the best!

Danielle Cunniff Plumer was hired in January 2005 to be the new Genealogy and Local History Librarian. She received her master's in library science in May 2003 from the University of Texas at Austin. She has worked at the Georgetown Public Library and has also taught part-time at UT Austin. Danielle's ancestry is Irish, and she particularly enjoys studying British and Celtic history. She's also interested in local history and has done research at the Center for American History at UT and the Austin History Center.

Danielle will assist at the library's reference desk whenever needed, and she will be training the other reference librarians to assist with genealogy questions. If you need extensive help with a genealogy question, please call or email first to make sure there will be someone at the library to help you. To contact Danielle, call her at 512-218-7018 or email her at [dplumer@round-rock.tx.us](mailto:dplumer@round-rock.tx.us).

#### New Process for Inter-Library Loans

Frequently, researchers find that they need to request materials from other libraries in order to complete their projects. The Round Rock Public Library System has recently begun using the OCLC WorldCat ILL system, which allows patrons to complete their ILL requests online.

To use the system, go to the WorldCat database, which is listed on the library's Databases & Websites list. To use the database from home, you will need either your library barcode or a username and password, available at the reference desk. Search for the item you need; if the Round Rock Public Library System does not own a copy, you can click the "ILL" button to request the item. Fill in the form and you're done!

All ILL requests are reviewed by the ILL Librarian, Shelley Aggeler. If you have questions about the new process, or if you need help identifying a particular item, please contact her at 512-218-7006 or by email at [saggeler@round-rock.tx.us](mailto:saggeler@round-rock.tx.us).

### CALENDAR OF CLASSES AND EVENTS

#### February 2005

Weds., Feb. 2 6:30-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Training  
*Using HeritageQuest Online. Learn census search strategies, publications search tips, and how to use this database from home. Library Training Room.*

Weds., Feb. 16 6:30-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Research  
*Use this time for online genealogy research in the Library Training Room.*

Mon., Feb. 21 Library Closed for Presidents' Day

#### March 2005

Weds., Mar. 2 6:30-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Training.  
*Using the Internet for genealogy research. Learn about free online sources for genealogical and local history research. Library Training Room*

Weds., Mar. 16 6:30-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Research  
*Use this time for online genealogy research in the Library Training Room.*

#### April 2005

Weds., Apr. 6 6:30-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Training.  
*Using the TexShare Databases. Learn what databases are available to help with your genealogical and local history research. Library Training Room.*

Weds., Apr. 20 6:30-8:30 p.m. Genealogy Research  
*Use this time for online genealogy research in the Library Training Room.*

Additional training and classes available on request.

#### WISH LIST

Have you ever thought about volunteering at the Round Rock Public Library? At the top of our wish list is a volunteer with an interest in local history and genealogy to help with our vertical files and newspaper clippings collection. If you're interested, please contact Danielle or any of the Reference staff!

## GENEALOGY COLLECTION NEWS

### TexShare Databases

One of the most valuable resources in the Round Rock Public Library System's genealogy collection is provided for free, has no annoying advertising, is available 24 hours per day, and can be used from home. The TexShare databases are provided by the State of Texas through the Texas State Library and Archives Commission. Libraries throughout Texas have access to 47 databases including business, medical, historical, and literary sources, as well as news and reference sources. Of particular interest to many genealogists are the following:

- **Biography & Genealogy Master Index.** Points users to over one thousand publications where biographies can be found.
- **HeritageQuest Online.** Beginning with more than 25,000 family and local histories, *HeritageQuest Online* is growing to include the complete *U.S. Federal Census* from 1790-1930, the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI), the *Revolutionary War Pension Applications & Bounty Land Warrant Applications*, and the *Freedman's Bank Records*.
- **Texas Digital Sanborn Maps** (1867-1970). Digital access to more than 660,000 large-scale maps of over 12,000 American towns and cities.
- **GPO Handbook of Texas** – A multidisciplinary encyclopedia of Texas history, geography, and culture. It comprises more than 23,000 articles on people, places, events, historical themes, institutions, and a host of other topic categories.

The Texas Library Association has identified providing appropriate funding for the TexShare databases as a high priority. Because of budget cuts in the 2003 legislative session, libraries must now pay for parts of the TexShare databases, a cost which many libraries cannot absorb. The HeritageQuest and Sanborn map collections were solely funded by member library donations in 2004. The Round Rock Public Library System's share is several thousand dollars per year, which is a significant portion of our budget for electronic resources. Help us to keep this service available by urging our legislators to support TexShare!

### Adjutant General Service Records Online through TSLAC

Students, educators, scholars, genealogists, and community members have a new research tool available to learn more about those who served in Texas military organizations. A new database from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission combines both official service record files from the Adjutant General's Office and alphabetic files created by other agencies relating to military service. For more information, visit <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/service/>

## WCGS NEWS

### Upcoming Meetings

The Williamson County Genealogical Society usually meets at 7:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every month except August and December. Upcoming meetings and topics include:

- Feb. 10 – Sylvia Nimmo; Comparison of Genealogy Software
- Mar. 10 – WCGS Panel; Research on the Internet
- Apr. 14 – Vada Sutton, Bell County Clerk; County Records

For more information about WCGS, check the Society's website at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~txwcgs/WCGS.html>

### WCGS Annual Seminar

The Williamson County Genealogical Society's Annual Seminar will be held Saturday, March 12, 2005, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church (1004 North Mays, Round Rock, Texas). The speaker will be Charles A. Sherrill from Brentwood, Tennessee, and topics will include:

- Ancestors in the Volunteer State: Research in Tennessee
- Tracing Your Civil War Ancestor
- On Solid Ground: Finding Ancestors in Tennessee Land Records
- Advanced Internet Genealogy

Charles A. Sherrill (M.A., M.L.S.) is Director of the Brentwood Library near Nashville, Tennessee. His education includes master's degrees in History and Library Science from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. Sherrill has been active in genealogical research and publishing since he was a teenager. Among his works are books on several Tennessee counties, particularly Grundy County where most of his ancestors lived. He began his career at Western Reserve Historical Society in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was Head Reference Librarian. As Director of the Cleveland (Tennessee) Public Library for nine years, Sherrill edited a series of genealogical publications about Bradley County. Additional works include two family genealogies, editing *Tennessee's Confederate Widows and their Families*, two volumes of penitentiary records entitled *Tennessee Convicts*, and his most recent publication *The Reconstructed 1810 Tennessee Census*.

For more information about the seminar, contact Jerry Barton at [jbarton2710@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jbarton2710@sbcglobal.net) or Judy Belle Horick at [jbhorick@yahoo.com](mailto:jbhorick@yahoo.com) or complete the registration form online at [http://www.rootsweb.com/~txwcgs/Registration\\_form.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~txwcgs/Registration_form.htm)

## LOCAL HISTORY NEWS

### Williamson County Historical Museum

The Williamson County Historical Museum has hired Chris Dyer as director, replacing Martha Withers. Chris has a bachelor's degree in museum studies and forensic anthropology from Baylor University and earned a master's degree in museum science from Texas Tech in 2002. He worked at the Texas Historical Commission in the Cemetery Preservation Program before joining the WCHM.

The Museum is located in the renovated Farmer's State Bank building, 716 South Austin Avenue on the Square in Georgetown. Exhibit hours for the museum are Wednesday through Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. and at other times by appointment. For more news, check the WCHM website at <http://www.wchm-tx.org/>

### Williamson County Courthouse Renovation

The Texas Historical Commission has given Williamson County a \$4 million grant to restore the Williamson County Courthouse, located in Georgetown, to its original state. The courthouse was built in 1911, but the façade of the courthouse was altered in 1966 after portions began disintegrating due to lack of maintenance. The renovation will add balustrades and pediments to the exterior, cover the dome with copper as it would have been when first built, and recreate a spiral staircase in the courthouse lobby. A balcony will also be restored outside the 26th District Courtroom where the famous Ku Klux Klan trial took place in 1923.

During the renovation, the County Clerk's Research Library will be located in the basement of the Williamson County Justice Center, 405 MLK St., in Georgetown. The Research Library holds subdivision plat maps, older probate records, older vital statistics, assumed name certificates, naturalization records, school records, military discharges and all land transactions. Records from Oct. 1983 to present can be accessed through the web-site [www.wilco.org](http://www.wilco.org) and can be printed as an unofficial copy for no fee. The Research Library has eight computer stations available for public access. For more information, call 943-1518 or 943-1514.

### Austin's Carver Museum Grand Re-Opening

The City of Austin celebrates the Grand Re-Opening of the George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center on Saturday, February 5. There are three permanent interactive exhibits: "Juneteenth," "Austin African American Families," and "Let's Pretend, Dr. Carver." The City of Austin also plans to renovate the George Washington Carver Historic Building, which housed the city's first public library. When renovated, the Historic Building will serve as the city's African-American Genealogy Center. For more information, visit <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/carver/>

## COLLECTION SPOTLIGHT

### February is Black History Month

Since 1926, February has been a month dedicated to the study of Black History in America. In honor of Black History Month, here are some resources for African-American genealogical research in the Round Rock Public Library:

#### African-American Genealogy:

Beasley, Donna. *Family pride : the complete guide to tracing African-American genealogy*. c1997.  
929.1 BEA (Non-fiction, 2nd floor)

Burroughs, Tony, 1948. *Black roots : a beginner's guide to tracing the African American family tree*. 2001.  
929.108996073 BUR (Genealogy Collection, 2nd floor)

Dodson, Howard. *In motion : the African-American migration experience*. 2004.  
304.808996073 DOD (New Books, 1st floor)

Ham, Debra Newman. *Black history : a guide to civilian records in the National Archives*. 1984.  
016.9730496 HAM (Genealogy Collection, 2nd floor)

Witcher, Curt Bryan. *African American genealogy : a bibliography and guide to sources*. 2000.  
929.108996073 WIT (Genealogy Collection, 2nd floor)

Woodtor, Dee. *Finding a place called home : a guide to African-American genealogy and historical identity*. 1998.  
929.1 WOD (Genealogy Collection, 2nd floor)

#### African-Americans in Texas:

Barr, Alwyn. *Black Texans : a history of African Americans in Texas, 1528-1995*. 1996.  
325.26 BAR (Texana Collection, 2nd floor)

Crouch, Barry A. *The Freedmen's Bureau and Black Texans*. 1992.  
976.400496 CRO (Texana Collection, 2nd floor)

Massey, Sara R. *Black cowboys of Texas*. 2000.  
923.9766 A BLA (Texana Collection, 2nd floor)

Winegarten, Ruthe. *Black Texas women : 150 years of trial and triumph*. 1995.  
920.72 A WIN (Non-fiction, 2nd floor)

#### Websites of Interest:

Ancestry.com. Slave Narratives.  
<http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/biohist/slavnarr/>

Afrigenas: African Ancestored Genealogy.  
<http://www.afrigenas.com/>

Witcher, Curt B. Help for African American Research.  
<http://www.ancestry.com/learn/library/article.aspx?article=7202>

American Memory. The African-American Mosaic.  
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/intro.html>

WestWeb. Other Great Migrations: African-Americans in the West  
<http://scholar.library.csi.cuny.edu/westweb/pages/black.html>

## Too Many Books?

Consider the genealogy & local history collection when culling through your personal collection of genealogical materials. Mark your items for the genealogy collection and give to either the library or the Williamson County Genealogical Society. Items donated will help many others and are tax-deductible.

Also, consider placing a copy (paper or digital) of your historic Round Rock photographs and documents in the library's local history collection. Contact either Danielle Plumer at 512-218-7018 or [dplumer@round-rock.tx.us](mailto:dplumer@round-rock.tx.us) or Linda Beebe from the Williamson County Genealogical Society at [LindaBeebe@prodigy.net](mailto:LindaBeebe@prodigy.net).

## The Genealogy Collection

The genealogy collection at the Round Rock Public Library System continues to grow with materials added by both the library and the Williamson County Genealogical Society. There have also been many recent donations of materials including books, CDs, and genealogy periodicals.

The collection is located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Robert G and Helen Griffith Public Library located at 216 East Main, Round Rock, and is available for use anytime the library is open. There are some helpful binders on top of the microfilm

cabinets that contain listings of all materials in the collection. Come by and see what is available.

The library's genealogy website is <http://www.ci.round-rock.tx.us/library/genealogy.html>. Look on the website for current events in genealogy, the latest acquisitions to the collection, genealogical Internet links, as well as a listing of CDs, microfilm, and periodicals in the collection.

The Genealogy & Local History Librarian is Danielle Cunniff Plumer. Her usual hours are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoons from 2-4 p.m. and Thursday evening from 7-9 p.m. Look for her at the reference desk on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the library. To contact Danielle, call her at 512-218-7018 or email her at [dplumer@round-rock.tx.us](mailto:dplumer@round-rock.tx.us).

GENEALOGY & LOCAL HISTORY NEWS AT THE ROUND ROCK PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM is published four times a year to promote the genealogy and local history collection and to increase awareness of useful genealogical and historical resources inside and outside the collection.